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(2) why the cost of 1,000 impressions is Rs. 8–11–7 in the Ootacamund Branch Press while it is only As. 7–5 in the Penitentiary Branch Press; and

(3) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the printing and impression charges in presses where they are excessive?

A.—(1) & (2) It is hoped that the table appended will explain matters to the satisfaction of the hon. Member. Where the amount of setting and examining work is comparatively small, the cost of setting a page is comparatively large. Where a large number of impressions are taken from a single page, the cost of striking is relatively small. At the Penitentiary Press there are very few skilled compositors, and the bulk of the work done is in striking standardized forms in stereo or electro blocks or from typed matter kept standing for years together. Consequently there is a high average charge for setting and a low average charge for striking. At the Ootacamund Branch Press there is a small staff which is mainly concerned in setting matter at short notice, and the number of copies of the matter struck is comparatively small. Consequently the average cost of setting is fairly high and that of striking a page out of proportion to the cost for the Penitentiary.

(3) The Government do not admit that the printing or impression charges are excessive at any of the presses. They make a practice, however, of having as little setting work done at the Penitentiary Press as possible, while in the case of the Ootacamund Branch Press they keep only a small nucleus staff for the greater part of the year and add to it a temporary staff during the three months when the Government are stationed at Ootacamund.

TABLE.

Presses.	Outturn, 1922–23.		Cost, 1922–23.	
	Pages.	Impressions.	Rate per page.	Rate per 1,000 impressions.
			RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Central Press	145,925	48,248,808	1 13 9	1 11 9
Mount Road Branch Press.	79,813	12,614,685	1 10 11	3 4 2
Penitentiary Branch Press.	1,308	53,896,603	6 7 3	0 7 5
Ootacamund Branch Press.	2,709	241,328	2 10 9	8 11 7
Total ..	229,755	115,001,424	* 1 13 9	* 1 3 9

*Average cost of the four presses.

Agency.

Punitive tax in the Fituri Agency.

404 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(1) the period during which punitive tax was collected in the Fituri area of the Agency, the amount collected and the effect it had;

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(2) whether the levy of punitive tax has been given up and the reasons for doing so ;

(3) the number of persons belonging to the Intelligence Department who are working in the Fituri area and the results of their work ;

(4) the number of European and Indian officers of the Police Department and Indian Civil Service officers working in the area ;

(5) when the policy of prosecuting private individuals for not giving information about the movements of the rebels in the Fituri area was inaugurated, and whether the previous sanction of the Government was obtained for such an action ;

(6) the number of persons that were prosecuted and the number of persons convicted up to date for not giving information of the movements of the rebels, or for supplying rations to the rebels ;

(7) whether this procedure has had any effect on getting information about the rebels ;

(8) whether it is a fact that the rebels whenever they entered a village placed sentinels and prevented villagers from getting out of the village for giving information to the outsiders ;

(9) whether any persons that gave information to the Police regarding the rebels have been murdered or severely dealt with by the rebels ;

(10) whether the Government want to continue the policy of prosecuting the villagers for not giving information regarding the movements of the rebels when there are officers belonging to the Intelligence Department and the Regular Police working in the area ;

(11) when the rebellion is expected to be over ; and

(12) the total expenditure incurred by the State up to date, from the beginning of the rebellion, and the number of rebels at present?

A.—(1) & (2) The police-tax in the Fituri area was collected for a period of six months which terminated on 24th September 1923. Government are not aware of the exact amount collected. It was, however, only a small sum, and as it appeared that the purpose of the tax was not understood by the villagers and its imposition was regarded as a hardship, the Government decided to make no further collection.

(3) The number of persons belonging to the Intelligence Department who are working in the Fituri area is as follows :—

One Deputy Superintendent.
Four Inspectors.
Twenty-two sub-inspectors.
Twenty head constables.
Forty constables.

It is impossible to describe the results of their work in general terms, but they have recorded a great deal of local information which has been and will be of use during the operations and should be in a position to supply the fighting forces with the earliest possible information of the movements of the rebels, provided that the inhabitants co-operate with them.

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(4) Twenty-six British and Indian officers of the Police Department (including the officers on Intelligence duties), three officers of the Indian Civil Service and two Forest officers are working in the Fituri area.

(5) After the withdrawal of the police-tax the local authorities were instructed to take active measures to bring to a sense of their responsibilities those individuals whose duty it was to co-operate with the Government in putting down the rebellion. In carrying out this policy it became necessary to prosecute individuals who were legally bound to give information about the movements of the rebels and who intentionally omitted to give such information. The sanction of Government was not required for such prosecutions.

(6) Government have no information.

(7) The Government believe that it has.

(8) The Government have not heard of any such incident.

(9) No persons have been murdered. Several persons have been severely dealt with by the rebels.

(10) The operations of the Intelligence staff in the Fituri area are obviously handicapped by the wilful withholding of information, and Government see no reason why persons who are guilty of this breach of the law should be exempted from prosecution.

(11) The Government cannot say.

(12) Rupees 12,34,955 approximately.

The nucleus of the gang is probably about 100, but it is believed that it has local adherents who join it whenever it enters the neighbourhood of their villages.

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju :—"With reference to clauses (i) and (ii) may I know whether any notification was issued for withdrawing this tax ?"

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—"I think not."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju :—"May I know the reasons why no collection was made since the 24th September 1923 ?"

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—"The reasons why no further collections were made are stated at the bottom of the page."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju :—"I want to know why the notification was not withdrawn even when the suspension began so early as 24th September."

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—"In answer to clause (i) it is stated that the tax terminated on the 24th September 1924. If the hon. Member wants any further accurate information I should like to have notice."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju :—"My supplemental question is to know the reasons why Government did not issue any notification withdrawing the punitive tax even when the collection of it was suspended."

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—"I said I should have notice of that question. But I suggest that the inference is that the tax was only for six months."

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Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Regarding item 3 may I know whether this department has given information as to the movements of the rebels beforehand ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I find it a little difficult to answer this question. We do not profess to get information beforehand, but the staff is expected to find out what the gangs are doing. From that information inferences are drawn. I am not prepared to say whether any officer has given information in advance as to what a gang is going to do."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Does the Government know that this department's business is only to collect information ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" No."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Will the Government call for information as to the nature of work of this department ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The Government are already in possession of the information. If any further information will serve any useful purpose it will be called for."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" I only ask if the hon. Member is in a position to deny that the business of the officers of this department is to prosecute villagers for not giving information ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Only a few minutes ago the hon. Member pointed out that the collection of information was the only business of the department."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" The public is under the impression that Government introduced this department there to do the work of collecting information. But on the other hand the impression of the public is that they are only launching prosecutions on poor villagers."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" My hon. Friend's information is quite incorrect. If he wants further information he will find it from the report received to-day about an officer who went to a village for the purpose of obtaining information when he was seized and fired upon and he has since died. He had not proceeded there to prosecute any one but had gone there for getting information. It is not a fact that the only work these officers are doing is to manage prosecutions."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Will the Government be pleased to call for information as to the discontent that is created in the minds of the villagers on account of the prosecutions and the convictions effected against these villagers ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Does the hon. Member mean the discontent in the minds of the people prosecuted ? Or the discontent in the minds of the people in general ? I can quite imagine that every one who did not give information may have some feeling of discontent at the prospect of being prosecuted."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" But the idea is that there is general discontent at the efforts made by Government to obtain information. That is the unfortunate state of affairs now prevailing."

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Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi :—"The allegation rather is that this department was launching prosecutions indiscriminately and establishing a kind of terror. That is the real allegation, and that is the reason for the discontent. Will the hon. Member kindly enquire into the number of prosecutions and the nature of evidence got and see whether there is not a great deal of force in that statement."

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—"I take it that the hon. Member is making the suggestion realizing the implication it carries with it, viz., that the people who are not misbehaving are convicted by the court."

Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi :—"I do not mean to say a word about the courts. I mean the way in which these gentlemen were collecting evidence."

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—"Such evidence is placed before courts and a very large number of cases is convicted. Therefore I stick to my point and suggest that to say that the prosecutions are unjustifiable is not correct, if the courts are sufficiently satisfied to convict."

Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi :—"I do not say a word about it. I know as a matter of fact that under worse conditions in Malabar the courts did very well. The point is that under the circumstances people are not willing to come forward to give true evidence and are easily coerced into giving false evidence."

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—"That is exactly my complaint that people are not prepared to come forward and state the facts. If they did so, we should be in a very much happier position."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju :—"Does the hon. Member realize the danger of creating discontent among those people ?"

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—"Yes."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"With reference to the answer at clause (5) of this question may I ask the hon. the Home Member to be good enough to say whether any other active measures are being taken by the local authorities in order to bring those individuals to a sense of their responsibilities than the prosecutions so far instituted ?"

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—"Not so far as I am aware."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"May I know, Sir, what is the idea of the hon. the Home Member when he used the phrase 'whose duty it was to co-operate with the Government ?' Is it the moral duty of the citizen or is it a duty created by the law of the land ?"

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—"May I ask where the phrase referred to occurs ?"

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"In line 3 of clause (5)."

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—"It refers to the legal duty, Sir."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"May I ask another question, Sir ? I refer to the next few lines where it is stated that in carrying out this policy it became necessary to prosecute individuals who are legally bound to give information. I am sure the hon. the Home Member is thinking of section 44 of the Criminal Procedure Code which casts a duty upon His Majesty's subjects to give information in certain specific cases. May I know whether it is the breach of giving this information or is it any other breach that does not come under that section which is being made the subject of prosecution."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" In view of the fact that a sum of Rs. 12 lakhs and odd has been already spent, and the Government are evidently feeling difficulties, will the Government consider other methods besides mere prosecutions, for putting down this rebellion, and whether they will also investigate the causes behind the rebellion, in a broad and statesmanlike way, or will they merely employ the police and the magistracy for the purpose ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The causes have been investigated in a broad and statesmanlike way. As regards the other methods of putting an end to this very unfortunate state of affairs, I shall be grateful to my hon. Friend opposite if he will suggest any other method. The only other method that I have heard named is the one suggested last year and that is that I should proceed to the Agency where the persons concerned are and interview and garland the leader of the fituri and come to a settlement. I am afraid I was not willing to undertake that task."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I did not say so."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. the Home Member did not say that Mr. Satyamurti said so."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" A distinguished Member of this House who is not a Member now made that suggestion. I should be very grateful to the hon. Member opposite or any other hon. Member who will put forward any practical suggestion to solve what we all admit is a very unfortunate state of affairs."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Is it not a fact that a whole District cannot get disaffected without some cause ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The cause if, Sir I am forced to say so, is undoubtedly to a very large extent the activities of a certain party which has been advocating non-co-operation with Government."

12-45 p.m. Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" What is the basis of that statement of the hon. Member that non-co-operation has something to do with the fituri ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" My belief, Sir."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether, in connexion with one of the prosecutions relating to this fituri, evidence was not let in to show that the bad way in which the labourers were treated by certain supervising officers was one of the causes of the fituri, as also economic and other causes ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" It is true that there were complaints regarding the treatment of labourers at the hands of certain officers. It is also true that there were complaints in connexion with podu cultivation. I think that in this connexion the Agency Commissioner examined the whole question and a deputy tahsildar has been asked for an explanation. I am not quite sure what happened. But these complaints had nothing to do with the leader of the fituri, Raju, who was neither oppressed by our officers nor has anything to do with podu cultivation, and I attribute his action to the political motives to which I have already alluded."

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Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi :—" May I ask, Sir, one more question? I believe my hon. Friend undertook last year to have an enquiry as soon as the operations were over and a favourable opportunity presented itself, an impartial enquiry, into the causes of the fituri; and I believe some kind of investigation was made from what I have seen in the papers. What I would like to know, Sir, is whether in this preliminary enquiry any non-official member was associated and whether in any more formal and comprehensive enquiry that may be undertaken any non-official gentleman will also be associated."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" Sir, may I request the hon. Member (Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi) first to put the question and then to make the speech? We are unable to understand if he makes both at the same time. So at least hereafter let him put the question first and then make the speech, so that we may understand what exactly the question is. He begins to talk loudly and gradually his voice becomes very low."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" Does the hon. the Home Member know that non-violence is the cardinal creed of non-co-operation and that therefore the Agency fituri can have no more to do with it than the hon. the Home Member? "

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—" I am aware, Sir, that non-violence is said to be the cardinal creed of non-co-operation, and I also think I have heard of cases where the disciples of that creed have not kept to the fundamental principle." (Hear, hear.)

Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi :—" May I have an answer, Sir, to my question whether non-officials will be associated in any such enquiry as was promised? "

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—" With reference to that, I do not think that a public enquiry was ever promised. An enquiry was made by the Agency Commissioner some time ago and he sent a report. I am not now able to say whether that report was laid on the Table. At the present moment, I cannot say that I am contemplating any further enquiry. But when the time comes and when any enquiry is to be held, I shall certainly consider the hon. Member's suggestion."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju :—" May I know, Sir, how much of the amount given in the answer was granted by the House and how much was sanctioned by His Excellency the Governor? "

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—" I cannot give the actual figures but a large sum was authorized by His Excellency the Governor."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju :—" In addition to this sum, is there any amount yet to be sanctioned by the House or authorized by His Excellency the Governor? "

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—" I think that that money is sufficient. I am not quite sure whether it includes the expenditure on the Assam Police, as I cannot say on what date this answer was prepared."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju :—" Does the hon. the Home Member propose to come with any demand on this account for expenditure during the current year? "

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—" At present, I do not see any likelihood of that. But if my hon. Friend is anxious to have an opportunity of

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